



State of Utah

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Utah Receives Authority to Regulate Uranium Mills and Tailings

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – At the request of the State of Utah, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has transferred to the state regulatory authority for uranium mills and tailings, effective Aug. 15, 2004.

The facilities now under Utah regulatory authority are the uranium mill tailings disposal facility at Envirocare in Tooele County and the uranium mill at International Uranium Corporation in Blanding. Utah also has the authority to oversee the final uranium mill decommissioning and reclamation activities at Shooter Canyon near Ticaboo and Rio Algom in Lisbon Valley located between Moab and Monticello. The Moab Mill site is under the authority of the U.S. Department of Energy and is not impacted by this agreement.

By assuming this authority, Utah will provide a more cost-effective regulatory program and a better process for citizen participation and communication in resolving uranium issues and concerns. The transfer will also eliminate dual regulatory programs for groundwater resources by consolidating requirements for radiologic and non-radiologic water quality under the state program.

“We look forward to implementing this new regulatory program,” said Dane Finerfrock, director of the Division of Radiation Control. “We have a highly competent staff managing the program in a way that will benefit the environment, citizens of Utah and the regulated community.”

Utah made a formal request to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in January 2003 to assume authority for uranium mills and tailings that were under federal jurisdiction. By granting the request, the NRC certifies that Utah has a program for the control of radiation hazards adequate to protect public health and safety and the environment.

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